

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, with your permission I am going to attempt to do a fairly complicated thing here with a very simple bill and that is explain the bill, handle the committee amendments and also deal with my amendment to the amendments all at once, if I can, because I think that makes the process somewhat more understandable. LB 652 is a fairly simple bill. It expands to all municipalit...as introduced, it expanded to all municipalities within the state the power provided under the Nebraska Industrial Development Corporation Act originally passed back in 1972. At that time it was passed, it applied only to the City of Omaha. What this act did is it gave to the City of Omaha the authority to form a nonprofit corporation. That corporation could acquire land, develop that land for industrial development sites. This bill was brought to me by the local planning authority and local economic development interest back in the Sarpy County area indicating that they would like to have this authority expanded to them. As the way the bill was originally drafted, it would have applied only to municipalities. That's the way I had introduced it. At the committee hearing, some people appeared and they said they felt that counties should also have this authority. That is one of the things that the committee amendments do. The committee amendments expands this authority to counties. Committee amendments also remove the emergency clause. The emergency clause was attached as a drafting error. There is no particular reason for having the emergency clause on this bill. That is what the committee amendments do. They expand this authority to counties and remove the emergency clause. This was a fairly noncontroversial bill until counties got included within it. There are some members of the body who feel that adding this authority to counties will promote urban sprawl. It is not my intent to promote urban sprawl, so I am offering an amendment to the committee amendments which will, in effect, say counties have this authority but they must administer this authority within the zoning jurisdiction of the municipality with the permission of that municipality. So that's what the the amendment to the amendments do. That's what the amendments do and,